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From imposition of strict laws, to free
Acceptance of large grace; from servile fear
To filial; works of law, to works of faith. *Milt. P. Lest.*
4. Confrant; oppression.
The constraint of receiving and holding opinions by author-
ity was rightly called *imposition*. *Locke.*
A greater load has been laid on us than we have been able
to bear, and the grossest *impositions* have been submitted to, in
order to forward the dangerous designs of a faction. *Swift.*
Let it not be made, contrary to its own nature, the occa-
sion of strife, a narrow spirit, and unreasonable *impositions* on
the mind and practice. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
5. Cheat; fallacy; imposture.
IMPOSSIBLE. *adj.* [*impossibile*, Fr. in and possible.] Not to be
done; not to be attained; impracticable.
Unlawful desires are punished after the effect of enjoying;
but *impossible* desires are punished in the desire itself. *Sidney.*
It was *impossible* that the state should continue quiet. *2 Mac.*
With men this is *impossible*; but with God all things are
possible. *Mat. xix. 26.*
'Twere *impossible* for any enterprize to be lawful, if that
which legitimated it is subsequent to it. *Decay of Piety.*
Difficult it is, but not *impossible*. *Chillingworth.*
It is *impossible* the mind should be stopped any where in
its progress in this space, how far soever it extends its
thoughts. *Locke.*
We cannot believe it *impossible* to God to make a creature
with more ways to convey into the understanding the notice
of corporeal things than five. *Locke.*
I my thoughts deceive
With hope of things *impossible* to find. *Watts.*
IMPOSSIBILITY. *n. f.* [*impossibilitas*, Fr. from *impossible*.]
1. Impracticability; the state of being not feasible.
Simple Philoclea, it is the *impossibility* that doth torment
me; for unlawful desires are punished after the effect of enjoy-
ing, but *impossible* desires in the desire itself. *Sidney.*
Admit all these *impossibilities* and great absurdities to be pos-
sible and convenient. *Whitgift.*
Let the mutinous winds
Strike the proud cedars 'gainst the fry sun,
Murdering *impossibility*, to make
What cannot be, flight work. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*
They confound difficulty with *impossibility*. *South.*
Those who assert the *impossibility* of space existing without
matter, must make body infinite. *Locke.*
When we see a man of like passions and weakness with our-
selves going before us in the paths of duty, it confutes all lazy
pretences of *impossibility*. *Rogers.*
2. That which cannot be done.
Though men do, without offence, wish daily that the af-
fairs, which with evil success are past, might have fallen out
much better; yet to pray that they may have been any other
than they are, this being a manifest *impossibility* in itself, the
rules of religion do not permit. *Hooker.*
Impossibilities! oh no, there's none,
Could I bring thy heart captive home. *Cowley.*
IMPOST. *n. f.* [*impost*, *impost*, French; *impositum*, Latin.] A
tax; a toll; custom paid.
Taxes and *imposts* upon merchants do seldom good to the
king's revenue; for that that he wins in the hundred, he loses
in the shire. *Bacon's Essays.*
IMPOSTS. *n. f.* [*impost*, Fr. *incumbit*, Latin.] In architecture,
that part of a pillar, in vaults and arches, on which the weight
of the whole building lieth. *Ainsworth.*
TO IMPOSTHUMATE. *v. n.* [from *imposthume*.] To form an
abscess; to gather; to form a cyst or bag containing matter.
The bruise *imposthumated*, and afterwards turned to a flin-
king ulcer, which made every body fly to come near
her. *Arbutnot.*
TO IMPOSTHUMATE. *v. a.* To afflict with an imposthume.
They would not fly that surgeon, whose lancet threatens
none but the *imposthumated* parts. *Decay of Piety.*
IMPOSTHUMATION. *n. f.* [from *imposthume*.] The act of
forming an imposthume; the state in which an imposthume is
formed.
He that maketh the wound bleed inwards, endangereth ma-
lign ulcers and pernicious *imposthumations*. *Bacon's Essays.*
IMPOSTHUME. *n. f.* [This seems to have been formed by
corruption from *impostem*, as *South* writes it; and *impostem*
to have been written erroneously for *apostem*, *αποστημα*, an ab-
scess.] A collection of purulent matter in a bag or cyst.
Now the rotten diseases of the South, ruptures, catarrhs,
and bladders full of *imposthumes*, make preposterous discove-
ries. *Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida.*
An error in the judgment is like an *impostem* in the head,
which is always noisome, and frequently mortal. *South.*
Fumes cannot transude through the bag of an *imposthume*.
Harvey on Consumptions.
IMPOSTOR. *n. f.* [*imposteur*, Fr. from *impose*; *impostor*, Latin.]
One who cheats by a fictitious character.
Shame and pain, poverty and sickness, yea death and hell

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itself, are but the trophies of those fatal conquests got by that
grand *impostor*, the devil, over the deluded sons of men. *South.*
IMPOSTURE. *n. f.* [*impostura*, Fr. *impostura*, Latin.] Cheat;
fraud; supposititiousness; cheat committed by giving to per-
sons or things a false character.
That the soul and angels have nothing to do with grosser
locality is generally opinioned; but who is it that retains not
a great part of the *imposture*, by allowing them a definitive
ubi, which is still but imagination? *Glanv. Scops.*
Open to them so many of the interior secrets of this my-
sterious art, without *imposture* or invidious reserve. *Evelyn.*
We know how successful the late usurper was, while his
army believed him real in his zeal against kingship; but when
they found out the *imposture*, upon his aspiring to the same
himself, he was presently deserted, and never able to crown his
usurped greatness with that title. *South.*
Form new legends,
And fill the world with follies and *impostures*. *Irene.*
IMPOTENCY. *n. f.* [*impotentia*, Latin.]
1. Want of power; inability; imbecility; weakness.
Some were poor by *impotency* of nature; as young fatherless
children, old decrepit persons, idiots, and cripples. *Hayes.*
Weakness, or the *impotence* of exercising animal motion,
attends fevers. *Arbutnot.*
God is a friend and a father, whose care supplies our wants,
and defends our *impotence*, and from whose compassion in Christ
we hope for eternal glory hereafter. *Rogers's Sermons.*
This is not a restraint or *impotency*, but the royal preroga-
tive of the most absolute king of kings; that he wills to do
nothing but what he can; and that he can do nothing which
is repugnant to his divine goodness. *Bentley.*
2. Ungovernableness of passion. A Latin signification: *animi*
impotentia.
Will he, so wise, let loose at once his ire,
Belike through *impotence*, or unaware,
To give his enemies their wish, and end
Them in his anger, whom his anger saves
To punish endless? *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Yet all combin'd,
Your beauty and my *impotence* of mind. *Dryden.*
3. Incapacity of propagation.
Dulness with obscenity must prove
As hateful, sure, as *impotence* in love. *Pope.*
IMPOTENT. *adj.* [*impotent*, Fr. *impotens*, Latin.]
1. Weak; feeble; wanting force; wanting power.
We that are strong must bear the imbecility of the *impotent*,
and not please ourselves.
Yet wealth is *impotent*
To gain dominion, or to keep it gain'd.
Although in dreadful whirls we hung,
High on the broken wave,
I knew thou wert not slow to hear,
Nor *impotent* to save. *Addison's Spectator.*
2. Disabled by nature or disease.
In those porches lay a great multitude of *impotent* folk, of
blind, halt, and withered. *Jo. v. 3.*
These sat a certain man, *impotent* in his feet, being a cri-
ple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. *Acts xiv.*
I have learn'd that fearful commenting
Is leaden servitor to dull delay;
Delay leads *impotent* and snail-paced beggary. *Shakef. R. III.*
3. Without power of restraint. [*Animi impotens*.]
With jealous eyes at distance the had seen,
Whispering with Jove, the silver-footed queen;
Then, *impotent* of tongue, her silence broke,
Thus turbulent in rattling tone the spoke. *Dryden.*
4. Without power of propagation.
He told beau Prim, who is thought *impotent*, that his mis-
tress would not have him, because he is a sloven, and had com-
mitted a rape. *Tatler.*
IMPOTENTLY. *adv.* [from *impotent*.] Without power.
Proud Cæsar, 'midst triumphal cars,
The spoils of nations, and the pomp of wars,
Ignobly vain, and *impotently* great,
Shew'd Rome her Cato's figure drawn in state. *Pope.*
TO IMPOUND. *v. a.* [in and pound. See POUND.]
1. To inclose as in a pound; to shut in; to confine.
The great care was rather how to *impound* the rebels, that
none of them might escape, than that any doubt was made to
vanquish them. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
2. To shut up in a pinfold.
England
Hath taken and *impounded* as a fray *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
The king
Seeing him wander about, I took him up for a fray, and
impounded him, with intention to restore him to the right
owner. *Dryden's Don Sebastian.*
TO IMPOWER. See EMPOWER.
IMPRACICABLE. *adj.* [*impracticable*, Fr. in and practicable.]
1. Not to be performed; unfeasible; impossible. *Had*

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Had there not been still remaining bodies, the legitimate
offspring of the antediluvian earth, 'twould have been an ex-
travagant and *impracticable* undertaking to have gone about to
determine any thing concerning it. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*
To preach up the necessity of that which our experience
tells us is utterly *impracticable*, were to affront mankind with
the terrible prospect of universal damnation. *Rogers's Sermon.*
2. Untractable; unmanageable.
That fierce *impracticable* nature
Is govern'd by a dainty-finger'd girl. *Rowe.*
IMPRACICABLENESS. *n. f.* [from *impracticable*.] Impossibility.
I do not know a greater mark of an able minister than that
of rightly adapting the several faculties of men, nor is any
thing more to be lamented than the *impracticableness* of doing
this. *Swift.*
TO IMPRECATE. *v. a.* [*imprecator*, Latin.] To call for evil
upon himself or others.
IMPRECATION. *n. f.* [*imprecatio*, Lat. *imprecation*, Fr. from
imprecate.] Curse; prayer by which any evil is wished.
My mother shall the horrid furies raise
With *imprecations*. *Chapman's Odyssey.*
Sir John Hotham, uncurs'd by any language or *imprecation*
of mine, not long after paid his own and his eldest son's
heads. *King Charles.*
With *imprecations* thus he fill'd the air,
And angry Neptune heard th' unrighteous pray'r. *Pope.*
IMPRECATORY. *adj.* [from *imprecate*.] Containing wishes of
evil.
TO IMPREGN. *v. a.* [in and *prægnare*, Latin.] To fill with
young; to fill with any matter or quality.
In her ears the found
Yet rung of his persuasive words, *impregn'd*
With reason, to her seeming. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Th' unfruitful rock itself, *impregn'd* by thee,
Forms lucid stones. *Thomson's Summer.*
IMPREGNABLE. *adj.* [*imprenable*, French.]
1. Not to be storm'd; not to be taken.
Two giants kept themselves in a castle, seated upon the top
of a rock, *imprenable*, because there was no coming to it but
by one narrow path, where one man's force was able to keep
down an army. *Sidney.*
Let us be back'd with God, and with the seas,
Which he hath given for fence *imprenable*,
And with their helps alone defend ourselves. *Shakef. H. VI.*
Hast thou not him, and all
Which he calls his, inclosed with a wall
Of strength *imprenable*? *Sandy.*
There the capitol thou see'st,
Above the rest lifting his stately head
On the Tarpeian rock, her citadel
Imprenable. *Milton's Paradise Regain'd, b. iv.*
2. Unshaken; unmoved; unaffected.
The man's affection remains wholly unconcerned and *im-
prenable*; just like a rock, which, being plied continually by
the waves, still throws them back again, and is not at all
moved. *South's Sermons.*
IMPREGNABLY. *adv.* [from *imprenable*.] In such a manner
as to defy force or hostility.
A castle strongly seated on a high rock, joineth by an isthmus
to the land, and is *impregnably* fortified. *Sandy.*
TO IMPREGNATE. *v. a.* [in and *prægnare*, Latin.]
1. To fill with young; to make prolific.
Hermaphrodites, although they include the parts of both
sexes, cannot *impregnate* themselves. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*
Impregnate, from their loins they shed
A slimy juice. *Dryden's Virg. Georg.*
With native earth their blood the monsters mix'd;
The blood, endu'd with animating heat,
Did in the *impregnate* earth new sons beget. *Dryden.*
2. [*Impregner*, French.] To fill; to saturate.
Christianity is of so prolific a nature, so apt to *impregnate*
the hearts and lives of its profelytes, that it is hard to imagine
that any branch should want a due fertility. *Decay of Piety.*
IMPREGNATION. *n. f.* [from *impregnate*.]
1. The act of making prolific; fecundation.
They ought to refer matters unto counsellors, which is the first
begetting or *impregnation*; but when they are elaborate in the
womb of their counsel, and grow ripe to be brought forth,
then they take the matter back into their own hands. *Bacon.*
2. That with which any thing is *impregnated*.
What could implant in the body such peculiar *impregnations*,
as should have such power? *Derham's Physico-Theology.*
3. [*Impregnation*, French.] Saturation.
IMPREJUDICATE. *adj.* [in, *præ*, and *judicio*, Latin.] Unpre-
judiced; not prepossessed; impartial.
The solid reason of one man with *imprejudicate* apprehen-
sions, begets as firm a belief as the authority or aggregated
testimony of many hundreds. *Brown.*
IMPREPARATION. *n. f.* [in and *preparation*.] Unprepared-
ness; want of preparation.
Impreparation and unreadiness when they find in us, they
turn it to the footing up of themselves. *Holzer.*

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TO IMPRESS. *v. a.* [*impressum*, Latin.]
1. To print by pressure; to stamp.
So foul and ugly, that exceeding fear
Their villages *impress*, when they approached near. *Fa. 2d.*
When God from earth form'd Adam in the East,
He his own image on the clay *impress*. *Denham.*
The conquering chief his foot *impress*
On the strong neck of that destructive beast. *Dryd. Ovid.*
2. To fix deep.
We should dwell upon the arguments, and *impress* the mo-
tives of persuasion upon our own hearts, 'till we feel the force
of them. *Watts.*
3. To force into service. This is generally now spoken and
written *press*.
His age has charms in it, his title more,
To pluck the common bosoms on his side,
And turn our *impress* launces in our eyes
Which do command them. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be, until
Great Birnam-wood to Dunfinane's high hill
Shall come against him.
—That will never be:
Who can *impress* the forest, bid the tree
Unfix his earth-bound root? *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
Ormond should contribute all he could for the making those
levies of men, and for *impressing* of ships. *Clarendon.*
IMPRESS. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Mark made by pressure.
This weak *impress* of love is as a figure
Trench'd in ice, which with an hour's heat
Dissolves to water. *Shakef. Two Gent. of Verona.*
They having taken the *impresses* of the infides of these shells
with that exquisite niceness, as to express even the finest linea-
ments of them. *Woodward's Nat. History.*
2. Effects upon another substance.
How objects are represented to myself I cannot be igno-
rant; but in what manner they are received, and what *im-
presses* they make upon the differing organs of another, he only
knows that feels them. *Glanv. Scops.*
3. Mark of distinction; stamp.
God, surveying the works of the creation, leaves us this
general *impress* or character upon them, that they were ex-
ceeding good. *South's Sermons.*
4. Device; motto.
To describe emblazon'd shields,
Impresses quaint, caparisons, and steeds,
Bases, and tinsel trappings. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ix.*
5. Act of forcing any into service; compulsion; seizure. Now
commonly *press*.
Ajax was here the voluntary, and you as under an *im-
press*. *Shakef. Troilus and Cressida.*
Why such *impress* of shipwrights, whole fore talk
Does not divide the Sunday from the week. *Shakef. Hamlet.*
Your ships are not well mann'd;
Your mariners are multieers, reapers, people
Ingross'd by swift *impresses*. *Shakef. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
IMPRESSION. *n. f.* [*impressio*, Latin; *impressio*, Fr.]
1. The act of pressing one body upon another.
Sensation is such an *impression* or motion, made in some
part of the body, as produces some perception in the under-
standing. *Locke.*
2. Mark made by pressure; stamp.
Like to a chaos, or unlick'd bear-whelp,
That carries no *impression* like the dam. *Shakef. Henry VI.*
3. Image fixed in the mind.
Were the offices of religion strip of all the external decen-
cies, they would not make a due *impression* on the mind. *Atterbury.*
The false representations of the kingdom's enemies had
made some *impression* in the mind of the successor. *Swift.*
4. Operation; influence.
The king had made him high sheriff of Suffex, that he
might the better make *impression* upon that county. *Clarendon.*
We lie open to the *impressions* of flattery, which we admit
without scruple, because we think we deserve it. *Atterbury.*
Universal gravitation is above all mechanism, and proceeds
from a divine energy and *impression*. *Bentley's Sermon.*
There is a real knowledge of material things, when the
thing itself, and the real action and *impression* thereof on our
senses, is perceived. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*
5. Edition; number printed at once; one course of printing.
To be distracted with many opinions, makes men to be of
the last *impression*, and full of change. *Bacon.*
For ten *impressions*, which his works have had in so many
years, at present a hundred books are scarcely purchased once
a twelvemonth. *Dryden.*
6. Effect of an attack.
Such a defeat of near two hundred horse, seconded with two
thousand foot, may surely endure a comparison with any of
the bravest *impressions* in ancient times. *Wotton.*
IMPRESSIBLE. *adj.* [in and *pressum*, Lat.] What may be im-
pressed.